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April 5, 2011

The Honorable Daniel R. Elliot, III  
Chairman  
Surface Transportation Board  
395 E Street, SW, Suite 1220  
Washington, DC 20423-0001

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Dear Chairman Elliot:

I am writing to express the Georgia Ports Authority's support for a strong freight railroad network, not only in the Southeast, but across the nation.

As America finally begins to pull itself out of the Great Recession, we do not need to promote policies that restrict rail earnings and threaten private investments. This would lead to disastrous consequences for businesses and consumers alike.

The Georgia Ports Authority supports a healthy freight rail network that encourages reinvestment by the rail industry, supports job growth and continued economic recovery. As the nation's fourth largest and fastest growing container port, the Port of Savannah features two on-terminal intermodal container transfer facilities, which are served by Norfolk Southern Railroad and CSX Transportation. These intermodal connections help make Savannah the Southeastern port of choice for retail distribution centers, by offering efficient operations and cost savings to 44 percent of the U.S. population.

We oppose any policy or regulatory changes that would hinder the freight railroads' ability to continue investing billions of dollars annually in private capital to grow and modernize the nation's rail infrastructure. The Federal government should maintain the regulatory framework in place today, which enables the sustaining freight railroads to remain financially healthy and meet the challenges of building a 21<sup>st</sup> century transportation system.

We respectfully request that no regulatory or policy changes be pursued at this time by the STB. The nation needs to maintain the strong and well-balanced regulatory regime it has in place today.

Thank you for our consideration of our position.

Sincerely,

Curtis J. Foltz  
Executive Director

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